

Montana Central Tumor Registry

Newsletter

Patient Follow-up Process is Changing

Under pressure to do more with less, the Montana Central Tumor Registry is saving money by changing our follow-up procedures. The MCTR spends almost \$20,000 a year to conduct patient follow-up by sending “blue letters” to physicians every year to obtain updated patient information. Administrative Rules of Montana 37.8.1803 requires follow-up to be conducted by hospitals that report cancer cases to the MCTR.

Starting in September 2010, physicians will no longer receive “blue letters”. Hospital registrars will begin receiving a list of their patients that are due for follow-up. Six of Montana’s large hospitals have already been receiving these lists and prefer getting a list rather than a pile of “blue letters”. We anticipate that these lists will be short for most hospitals but will be new to you. See page 3 for an example of what the list may look like. The form is not finalized and we welcome suggestions to make it more useful for everyone.

The list of patients due for follow-up will be generated at the MCTR and will be sent to the hospital registrar either by fax or the State of Montana File Transfer Service to begin the reduction of confidential information being sent through the mail.

The advantages of revising our follow-up procedures are many:

- We will virtually go paperless
- We will be saving thousands of dollars
- Physicians will no longer be bothered by “blue letters”

We anticipate that there might be some disadvantages:

- Hospital registrars have one more form to complete if they weren’t already doing it for their physicians
- The MCTR overall follow-up rate may decrease temporarily if hospitals do not have patient information

Many hospitals already have access to their physician’s electronic records and the information requested is easily obtained. We also know that some physicians automatically send the “blue letters” to the hospital registrar for completion.

We would appreciate hearing your comments about the change in conducting follow-up. If you are concerned about the length of the list, please call the MCTR and we can give you a brief idea of how many patients might be on your next list.



MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Cancer Surveillance & Epidemiology Program Staff

Carol Ballew, PhD
Program Manager
(406) 444-6988
cballew@mt.gov

Debbi Lemons, RHIA, CTR
Coordinator, Montana
Central Tumor Registry
(406) 444-6786
dlemons@mt.gov

Diane Dean, MS, CTR
Data Control Specialist
(406) 444-6710
ddean@mt.gov

Paige Johnson, BS, CTR
Data Control Specialist
(406) 444-6709
paigejohnson@mt.gov

Janae Grotbo
Financial Specialist
(406) 444-2618
jgrotbo@mt.gov

FAX: (406) 444-6557

www.cancer.mt.gov

Meet the Registrars



Linda McCulloch and Cindy McLendon

Linda

I started at Benefis as Administrative Assistant in the Cancer Program in January 2001, during my interview the ladies in the Cancer Registry told me that they would never need my help. Well that soon changed, and little by little they started asking me to help. Soon (January 2004) I was working as Cancer Registry Assistant, then in

September 2007 I passed the CTR Exam. But as it often does life took a funny turn and I had to stay home to care for my 3 grandchildren. They were wonderful but I can honestly say that coming back to work full time in December 2009 is easier than caring for 3 young children, they have way too much energy.

In my spare time I love to ride bikes and play games with my grandchildren, read, garden, and look at quilt books (someday I hope to actually make a quilt!). My husband Bryan & I also enjoy ballroom dancing.

Cindy

Greetings from Great Falls! My name is Cindy McLendon. I first started working in Medical Oncology & then Radiation Oncology. I have been with Benefis Healthcare in the Cancer Registry since late 2008 part time and full time since 2009. I am currently taking on-line classes through Santa Barbara City College, for my Associates degree in Cancer Information Management.

I am married to my wonderful husband, Clay. In our spare time we enjoy watching MLB (GO YANKEES), NASCAR, and anything outdoors with our chocolate lab Hershey. We have traveled multiple times to Seattle to watch the Yankees play and visit Clay's daughter. We also enjoy spending time with our family. All of our children are grown up or graduating from High School this year. I really enjoy the registry and I learn new things every day.

Sample Follow-up Request

Follow-Up Request

CTR#	Hosp-Acc#	MCTR Date Last Seen
Patient Name		Site
Birthdate		Histology
SSN	Dx Date	Comments: Write DLC, VS, Ca Status, Updates on Tx, etc.

«CTRnumber»	«hosaccnum»	«DLC»	
«Patientname»		«Site»	
«DOB»		«Hist»	
«SSnumber»		«DXdate»	

Return request to MCTR via FTS to jgrotbo@mt.gov or by fax at (406) 444-6557 within 30 days of receipt.

Certificate of Excellence Recipients

The following hospitals and Dermatology offices received a certificate for the 2010 First Quarter, acknowledging their timeliness in reporting. Ninety percent of their cases were reported within 12 months.

Hospital	City
Dr. Philip Tallman	Billings
Dr. Dixon Robison	Butte
Dermatology Associates	Kalispell
Dr. Byron Baldrige	Great Falls
Dr. Latha Vellanki	Helena
Associated Dermatology of Helena	Helena
Bozeman Deaconess Hospital	Bozeman
Billings Clinic	Billings
St. Vincent's Hospital	Billings
Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital	Glasgow
Glendive Medical Center	Glendive
Big Horn County Memorial Hospital	Hardin
Central Montana Hospital	Lewistown
St. Patrick Hospital	Missoula
Roundup Memorial Hospital	Roundup
Clark Fork Valley Hospital	Plains
Great Falls Clinic	Great Falls
Yellowstone Pathology Institute	Billings



Free Educational Opportunities at Your Convenience!

Pre-recorded **free** training webinars are available on the MCTR website at www.cancer.mt.gov (click on MT Tumor Registry) and are available for download and viewing. Each webinar is worth 3 Continuing Education credits! The webinars contain current and up-to-date training for abstracting and coding cases with the 2010 rules.

Quarterly, the MCTR will make available 2 or 3 webinars and will leave the webinars on the webpage for 3 months and then will make available 2 or 3 more.

Three webinars currently on the MCTR website are:

- Skin Malignancies
- Kidney Cancer
- Sarcoma, GIST (Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors), and NET (Neuroendocrine Tumors)

The zipped file contains the webinar, handouts, quizzes and answers, and a certificate of completion.

Steps to watch the webinar and earn your FREE CE's:

- Save the zipped file from the MCTR website and contact the MCTR for the password to unzip
- Download and install the Webex Player from <http://www.webex.com/downloadplayer.html>
- Read and agree to the Terms of Use Agreement (included in zipped package)
- Double click on the file with the extension *.wrf
- Turn on your computer speakers to hear the presenters

Q & A

Question: For a lung cancer primary, what is the surgical procedure code for radiofrequency ablation of the lung tumor?

Answer: Radiofrequency ablation for a lung primary is coded 15 in the surgical procedure of the primary site field. (Inquiry # 28206; Fords pg 264)

Question: A 3.1cm localized kidney cancer was found on a CT. They did a biopsy, which was positive for clear cell carcinoma, followed by a left renal cryoablation without a pathology specimen. For collaborative staging, do we make the TS/Ext-Eval a 3 for surgery or code a 1?

Answer: Document code 1 in the CS Ext Eval field. (Inquiry # 20977; Collaborative Staging Manual & Coding Instructions pg I-30-I-32)

Source: ACOS COC Inquiry & Response Team <http://web.facs.org/coc/default.htm>